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a British protected belt along the coast and to leave the interior of the country alone. This policy was no doubt due in part to the difficulties of communication overland and to the attitude of the Arab chiefs concerned, who welcomed protection against foreign enemies, but disliked any interference with their internal affairs.

Unfortunately, British protection was not always effective. No troops were maintained in the Protectorate, and when the test of war came in 1915 the Turks in the Yemen found no difficulty in marching down through the Protectorate to Lahej and the gates of Aden. After the war the rule of the Turks in the Yemen was succeeded by that of the Zeidi Imam of Sana. This energetic ruler has always regarded both Turks and British as usurpers in Southern Arabia, the whole of which he looks upon as his rightful inheritance, and he lost no time in seizing as much of the Aden Protectorate as he could take with impunity. The British at Aden, with a much reduced garrison and a minute air force, were unable to give effective protection to their tribes until 1928, when air reinforcements enabled them to recover the Dhala district. The Imam's Zeidi troops retained possession of some parts of the Protectorate until 1934, when they were withdrawn as a corollary to the signature of the Treaty of Sana. This treaty effected a temporary settlement of the vexed question of the Protectorate frontier. The Imam did not formally renounce his historic claims, for he declares that he will never do that, but he agreed that they should remain in abeyance for the period of the treaty—that is, for forty years from its signature, or until a more permanent solution could be found. On the other hand, the British Government recognized the Imam's title as King of the Yemen and his complete independence within his own territory.

It was hoped that the Treaty of Sana would prove to be a turning-point in the history of the Aden Protectorate, and this hope has to some extent been justified. Before the conclusion of the treaty the Protecting Power was mainly concerned with the problem of defence against external aggression, and there were even advocates of the abandonment of all but a fragment of the Protectorate in the immediate vicinity of Aden. The settlement with the Yemen enabled the authorities at Aden to turn their attention to setting the Protectorate house in order. There was a growing feeling that the old policy of indifference to its internal needs was unworthy of the best British traditions, and that an effort should be made to improve the lot of the people in the protected area. It was no longer considered to be good enough to put a ring

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663 fence round the country and then to leave it to anarchy. On the other hand, there was no wish to introduce direct British rule over a people who are tenaciously attached to their independence. Our policy is therefore to support the treaty chiefs and to lead them and their subjects to appreciate the advantages of the suppression of lawlessness and the maintenance, in collaboration with the British Government, of internal peace and security. At the same time it was laid down as a general principle that the main trade routes through the Protectorate must be kept safe, and that the Government would enforce this decision.

The medium through which this policy was to be carried into effect was a number of political officers centred on Aden, but working in the Protectorate, and I, as Governor at the time, was fortunate in the appointment by the Colonial Office of a group of young men who threw themselves wholeheartedly and devotedly into the work of gaining the confidence and friendship of the Arab tribes and their chiefs, and in promoting the policy upon which the Government had embarked.

712 This work would not have been possible without the collaboration of the Royal Air Force. Aden had become an Air Command in 1928, and the first action of the strengthened Air Force was the ejection of the Yemenis from Dhala, to which I have already referred. This was followed by the construction of landing-grounds. There are now between thirty and forty of these in various parts of the Protectorate, including the Hadhramaut Valley, which had until lately been almost a *terra incognita* except to a few adventurous travellers. Flights by the Royal Air Force over the Hadhramaut were followed by invitations from the local Arabs to land, and the pioneer work of two young Air Force officers, Cochrane and Rickards, led to the establishment of closer contact. The first visit of a Resident of Aden to this strange and most interesting district was paid by myself in the early part of 1933.

556 I have already referred to this remarkable valley of the Hadhramaut,
167 and readers of Miss Freya Stark's delightful and graphic descriptions of her travels in Southern Arabia will be familiar with its peculiar characteristics. Its wealthy seyyids and merchants have generally amassed their fortunes in Java or Singapore, to which countries the Hadhramis emigrate in large numbers, and in which many of them are
[186] owners of valuable house property. They do not, however, lose their
342 love for their original home in Arabia, and many of them eventually return to the Hadhramaut, and there build for themselves the luxurious